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26 August 2024 (Mon), 11am
Auditorium (Level 1)

Hosted by: Dr Ong Chin Tong

Post-Geomics Era Development: From SNVs to Industrial Applications



Dr John Gu
Co-founder, CSO of Safenia Pharmaceuticals

The Human Genome Project (HGP) is not just a project to complete the human genome sequencing, but also a program to establish quantitative biology. SNVs (used to be called as SNPs) is the very first achievement besides sequencing. We will set up a stage of discussion from SNVs discovery to assay development, to industrial applications (especially in new drug development and precision medicine). The talk will also look into the future of the related research both in academic and industry.

Dr Gu is trained in human genetics and human genome sciences. He pioneered the work on genome-wide SNPs (single nucleotide polymorphisms, now as SNVs, single nucleotide variants), first with a model of 23Mb long contig on Chromosome 7, then to the entire human genome. In the early years of the genome project, Dr Gu was focusing on discovering SNPs and building a SNPs map in the SNP Consortium (TSC) and 1000 Genome Program. For last fifteen years, Dr Gu's interests have been expanding to new drug development using genomic technologies, particularly with SNPs, to improve drug efficacy and mitigate drug adverse effects through patient stratification and selections.

Dr Gu has founded and/or co-founded three companies, besides worked as a (genome and informatics research) section head at Motorola Life Sciences (MLS). His academic appointment was from UCSD Medical School Cancer Center as Lucille & Ronald Neeley Professor. The latest, Safenia Pharmaceuticals, is a later-stage clinical development company with assets from NMCs. He also served as board member at Paralle6 (a clinical data security company sold to PRA Health Sciences) and Interim Chairman of Global Oceanic (a Christian non-for-profit organization, now is a part of CRU). Dr Gu obtained his Ph.D. in Biophysics in Molecular & Cellular Biology (MCB) Program, trained as a NIH-extramural Fellow in the Human Genome Project at Washington University at St Louis School of Medicine.